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Featuring: ▶ **Agricultural Prices** ▶ **Slaughter** ▶ **Cold Storage** ▶ **Farm Labor**
▶ **Milk Production** ▶ **Cattle on Feed** ▶ **Soybean Chemical Use** ▶ **Egg Production**

KENTUCKY GRAIN AND LIVESTOCK PRICES IMPROVE

Prices received by Kentucky farmers at mid-May were up for all crop and livestock commodities with the exception of calves that decreased in price.

Steers and heifers 500 lbs. and over averaged \$101.00 per cwt. (hundred pounds) for mid-May. This was up \$2.00 from the April price while unchanged from May 2006. The mid-month price would be the highest in eight months. Beef cow price at mid-month was \$51.00 per cwt., up \$4.00 from April and \$3.00 from May 2006. The mid-May price would be the highest since July 2005. Calves weighing less than 500 pounds at mid-month averaged \$114.00 per cwt. This was down \$1.00 from the previous April and \$10.00 from May 2006.

Price of barrows and gilts for mid-May were \$53.00 per cwt. This was up \$7.00 from April, \$6.00 from May 2006 and would be the highest price in eleven months. Sows were up in price at \$27.00 per cwt., up \$2.00 from the previous April while down \$3.00 from May 2006.

Sheep and lamb prices for April continued mixed with sheep down in price while lambs were unchanged. The April sheep price at \$33.00 per cwt. was down \$10.00 from March and \$3.00 from April 2006. The lamb price for April held steady at \$106.00 per cwt., unchanged from March while up \$13.00 from April a year earlier. The current lamb price of 106.00 per cwt. is the highest since December 2005.

Price of all milk at mid-May was \$18.50 per cwt., up \$1.10 from the April price and \$5.50 from May 2006. This would be the highest milk price in 34 months. The final milk price will vary from the projected min-month price due to price changes announced by the Milk Marketing Orders, actual milk fat content and quantity sold by milk classes.

Grain prices for mid-month were all up from April. The corn price at mid-May was \$3.70 per bushel, up 12 cents from the previous April and \$1.24 from the May 2006 price. Soybean mid-month price at

\$7.50 per bushel was up 39 cents from the April price and \$1.62 from a year earlier. The mid-May price would be the highest since July 2004. Winter wheat price for mid-May was \$4.40 per bushel.

The Preliminary U.S. All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May at 138 based on 1990-92=100, increased 4 points (3.0 percent) from April. The Crop Index was up 3 points (2.1 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 5 points (3.9 percent). Producers received higher prices for milk, hogs, hay and broilers. Lower prices were received for lettuce, cattle, broccoli, and cauliflower. The overall index was also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of sweet corn, broilers, peaches, and wheat offset decreased marketings of cattle, milk, oranges, and apples. Preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 27 points (24 percent) from May 2006.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS - (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY		US	
		MAY 2006	APR 2007	MAY 2007	MAY 2007
		Entire Month		Mid-Month <u>g/</u>	
All Corn <u>b/ c/</u>	Bu.	2.46	3.58	3.70	3.48
Soybeans <u>b/</u>	Bu.	5.88	7.11	7.50	7.15
Winter Wheat <u>b/</u>	Bu.	3.56	C	4.40	4.58
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	115.00	135.00	135.00	144.00
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	70.00	75.00	75.00	116.00
All Hogs	Cwt.	46.30	45.20	52.00	52.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	47.00	46.00	53.00	52.80
Sows	Cwt.	30.00	25.00	27.00	32.60
All Beef Cattle <u>d/</u>	Cwt.	88.30	86.50	89.00	93.50
Steers & Heifers <u>e/</u>	Cwt.	101.00	99.00	101.00	98.60
Cows	Cwt.	48.00	47.00	51.00	51.60
Calves <u>f/</u>	Cwt.	124.00	115.00	114.00	126.00
Sheep	Cwt.	37.00	33.00	--	--
Lambs	Cwt.	94.00	106.00	--	--
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	13.00	17.40	18.50	17.80
Hog-Corn Ratios <u>g/</u>	Bu.	18.8	12.6	14.1	14.9

a/Preliminary. b/Includes contract sales paid during month. c/Includes yellow and white corn. d/"Steers and heifers" and "cows" combined. e/500 lbs. and over. f/ Under 500 lbs. g/Number of bushels of corn equal in value to 100 lbs. of hog live weight. C – Confidential.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.75 billion pounds in April, up 4 percent from the 3.61 billion pounds produced in April 2006. April 2006 contained 20 weekdays and 5 Saturdays. April 2007 contained 21 weekdays and 4 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.02 billion pounds, was 2 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.70 million head, up 4 percent from April 2006. The average live weight was down 5 pounds from the previous year, at 1,235 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.71 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.47 million head, up 6 percent from April 2006. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 270 pounds.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: U. S. & KENTUCKY 1/

Type	April 2006	March 2007	April 2007	April 07 % of	
				April 2006	March 2007
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	1,969.2	2,117.9	2,015.2	102	95
Veal	10.4	13.5	11.8	114	87
Pork	1,618.3	1,860.9	1,710.9	106	92
Lamb & Mutton	16.9	19.6	15.1	89	77
Total U.S.	3,614.8	4,011.9	3,753.0	104	94
Total Kentucky	36.5	47.7	46.6	128	98

1/ Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. APRIL 2006 & 2007 1/

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
Kentucky						
Cattle	1.3	1.4	1,279	1,265	953	937
Hogs	179.8	230.0	47,704	60,605	266	264
Sheep & Lambs	1.0	0.8	119	110	124	132
United States						
Cattle	2,608.6	2,701.6	3,222,245	3,324,260	1,240	1,235
Hogs	7,959.3	8,465.3	2,160,169	2,284,018	272	270
Sheep & Lambs	247.1	216.9	33,477	30,004	136	139

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on April 30, 2007 were greater than year earlier levels for butter, cheese and pork.

All U S. Warehouse Stocks				April 2007 as % of	
Commodity	April 30 2006	March 31 2007	April 30 2007	April 2006	March 2007
Frozen Poultry		1,000 lbs		Percent	
Chicken	840,995	599,274	606,963	72	101
Turkey	423,732	346,703	355,733	84	103
Ducks	8,002	5,660	6,551	82	116
Total Frozen Poultry	1,272,729	951,637	969,247	76	102
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	441,266	425,895	411,813	93	97
Frozen Pork					
Bellies	62,665	55,160	61,863	99	112
Total Frozen Pork <u>1/</u>	520,022	494,761	521,967	100	105
Total Meat <u>2/</u>	979,105	942,228	956,850	98	102

1/ Includes picnics, hams, bellies, loins, ribs, trimmings, and other frozen pork. 2/ Includes frozen beef, pork, veal, lamb and mutton, other frozen meat, canned hams, and other canned meat.

APRIL FARM LABOR

There were 961,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of April 8-14, 2007, unchanged from a year ago. A large increase in California was enough to offset the large declines in hired workers in most other regions, resulting in a net change of zero from last April. Of these hired workers, 720,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 241,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.17 per hour during the April 2007 reference week, up 39 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.35 per hour, up 40 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned

\$9.55 per hour compared with \$9.31 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.41 per hour, was up 35 cents from last year.

The number of hired workers in the 3-State Region including Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia totaled 22,000 during the week of April 8-14, 2007. This compares to 29,000 hired workers for the same time period a year ago. Wage rates for these workers averaged \$9.77 per hour, up 92 cents per hour from 2006. Field workers earned an average \$8.64 per hour compared to \$8.20 per hour last year. Livestock workers were paid an average of \$9.07 per hour, up \$1.32 per hour from a year ago.

APRIL MILK PRODUCTION

Kentucky milk production for April 2007 totaled 115 million pounds, down 6 percent from April 2006 and down 2 percent from March 2007. Average number of milk cows on farms at 91,000 head, was down 8,000 head from a year earlier and down 2,000 head from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,260 pounds, up 30 pounds from April 2006, and unchanged from last month.

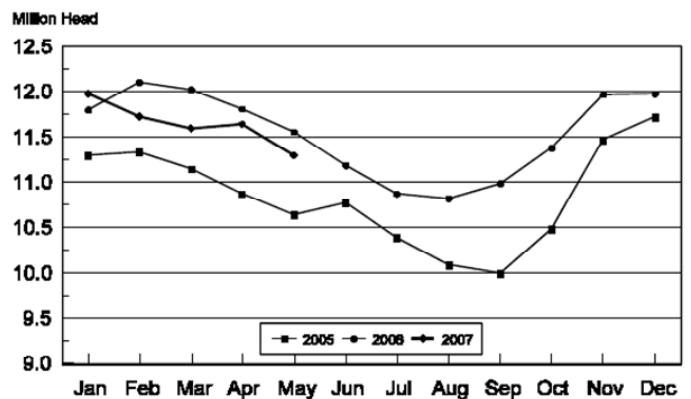
Milk production in the 23 major States during April totaled 14.4 billion pounds, up 1.6 percent from

April 2006. March revised production, at 14.8 billion pounds, was up 1.2 percent from March 2006. The March revision represented an increase of 11 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,745 pounds for April, 19 pounds above April 2006. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.28 million head, 39,000 head more than April 2006, but 6,000 head less than March 2007.

U. S. CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.3 million head on May 1, 2007. The inventory was 2 percent below May 1, 2006 but 6 percent above May 1, 2005. This is the second highest May 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. **Placements** in feedlots during April totaled 1.57 million, 3 percent below 2006 and 5 percent below 2005. Net placements were 1.47 million. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 375,000, 600-699 pounds were 263,000, 700-799 pounds were 430,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 505,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during April totaled 1.82 million, 2 percent above 2006 and 1 percent above 2005. **Other disappearance** totaled 99,000 during April, 14 percent above 2006 and 9 percent above 2005.

United States Cattle on Feed
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots



SOYBEANS: FERTILIZER USE BY STATE, 2006
PERCENT OF ACRES TREATED AND TOTAL APPLIED

State	Planted Acreage	Percent of Acres Treated and Total Applied					
		Nitrogen		Phosphate		Potash	
	(1,000 Acres)	(%)	(Mil. Lbs)	(%)	(Mil. Lbs)	(%)	(Mil. Lbs)
Arkansas	3,110	3	0.9	34	60.4	36	94.4
Illinois	10,100	11	18.1	16	96.0	31	290.2
Indiana	5,700	16	15.2	20	54.6	32	177.4
Iowa	10,150	7	10.8	12	64.4	20	172.6
Kansas	3,150	21	10.5	25	32.0	8	8.8
Kentucky	1,380	28	14.6	40	35.3	41	44.5
Louisiana	870	4	0.4	13	4.9	16	9.3
Michigan	2,000	28	5.9	28	19.5	56	96.7
Minnesota	7,350	16	15.3	18	53.2	16	57.4
Mississippi	1,670	6	1.0	14	9.0	19	25.6
Missouri	5,150	12	10.9	19	45.7	22	76.2
Nebraska	5,050	32	20.2	32	70.4	12	15.8
North Carolina	1,370	39	11.0	42	25.6	44	50.8
North Dakota	3,900	43	22.6	42	58.3	3	1.9
Ohio	4,650	19	11.9	20	40.5	40	171.4
South Dakota	3,950	29	19.7	31	49.4	8	8.6
Tennessee	1,160	42	12.0	48	28.1	63	63.8
Virginia	520	32	3.9	34	7.4	39	15.1
Wisconsin	1,650	31	7.4	33	18.0	55	74.2
TOTAL	72,880	18	212.4	23	772.8	25	1,454.7

UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Item	April 2006	April 2007	April '07 as % of April '06
Egg Production			
Eggs Produced (Million)	7,543	7,434	99
Average Layers (000)	348,643	343,825	99
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,164	2,162	100
Egg Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set May 1 (000)	37,516	36,848	98
Chicks Hatched (000)	35,435	39,704	112
Broiler Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set May 1 (000)	658,354	679,972	103
Chicks Hatched (000)	787,457	800,524	102

Internet Access: Data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the National Agricultural Statistics Service homepage located at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>